

Thomas Jefferson Overton to Andrew Jackson, August 1, 1805, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

THOMAS J. OVERTON TO JACKSON.

August 1, 1805.

Dr. Genl. I am induced to think the brush I got when you was with me is not likely to produce fatal effects. But I assure you General it would be almost a matter of indifference with me, if it were not for my wish to be with you once more; and oftener if necessary, for it seems as if my enemies as to numbers are something like the army of Xerxes combatting with the Grecians, who had to oppose them. Have confidence my dear friend, all that I ask, is that you may be along side of me in the hour of difficulty, when life ceases to be a blessing unless held on honorable terms. I have but one life to lose, and they shall have a chance for that, as long as it lasts; though I trust the God of heaven is just, and with your assistance will enable me, to give some account of the greatest monster of depravity, in the shape of a man, that ever disgraced the animal creation—I mean John Dickinson, the pupil, nay, I might almost say the child of Judge Overton; and of certificate memory. This is the man with whom I cannot live on the same globe and I am sure our souls if he has one at all, are too uncongenial, to be placed by providence in the same state of existence hereafter.

In justice I think he will be obliged to fight me the next time, upon my own terms; and if he does, I pledge myself (*accidents excepted*) that families when discharging the sacred duties of hospitality, shall no longer be affraid of finding a dagger in their breast or the poison of asps, and adders in their bowels, when least suspected. I tell you Genl. I shall get well, you must come and see me if you can. I am too much fatigued to write any more.

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I am with sincere sents. of gratitude your friend